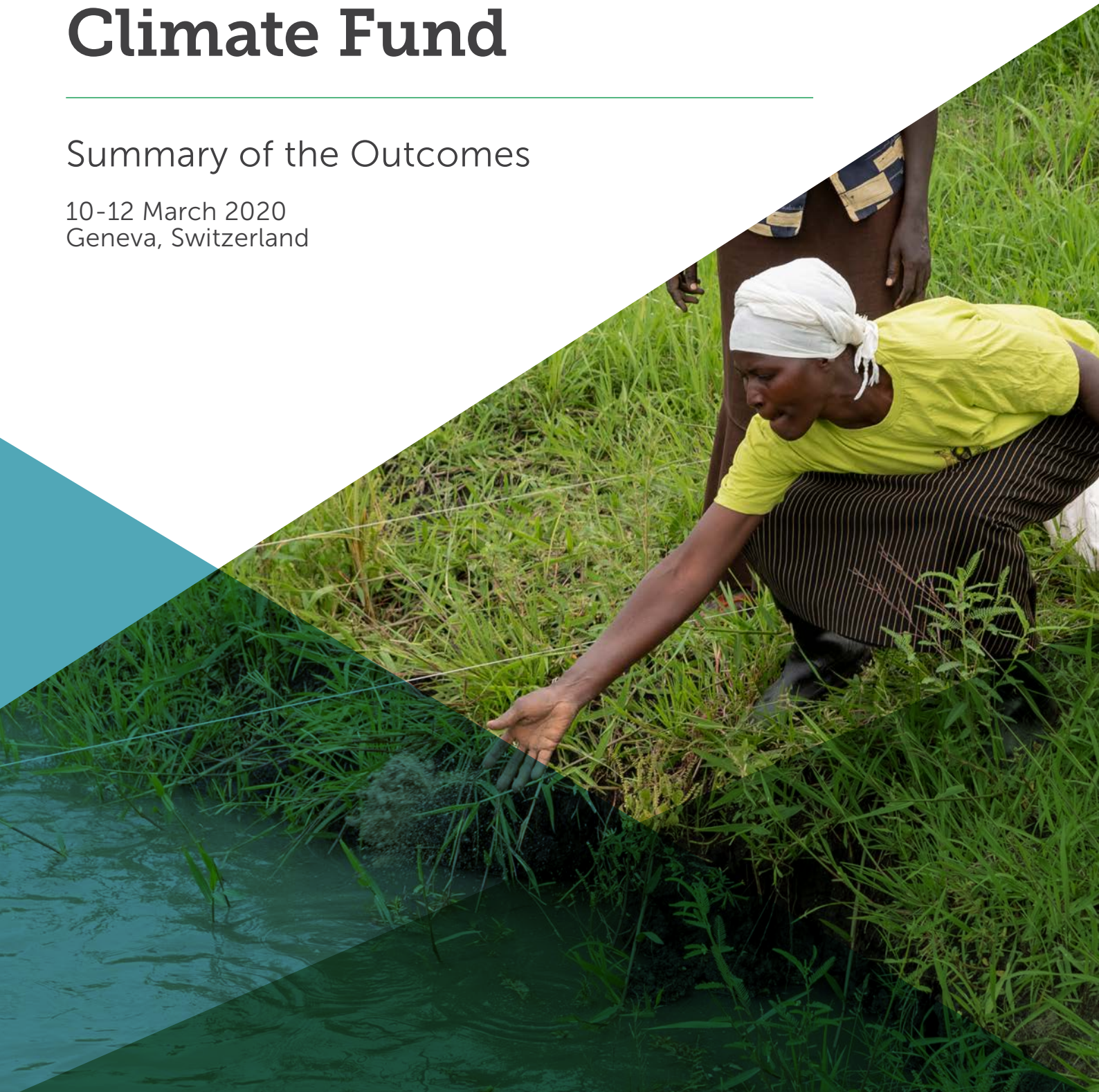


GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

25th Meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund

Summary of the Outcomes

10-12 March 2020
Geneva, Switzerland



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Introduction

The 25th meeting of the Board (B.25) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) took place from 10 to 12 March 2020. Mr. Nauman Bhatti and Ms. Sue Szabo presided over the meeting as Co-Chairs. This meeting was held at Le Centre de Conférences Varembe, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Board welcomed with appreciation the decision of the Government of Switzerland and the Canton of Geneva to host the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board.

This document provides a broad overview of the outcomes of the 25th meeting of the Board and a more detailed summary of the main decisions at the meeting. It also includes a brief summary of each of the projects and programmes approved by the Board. This document does not represent the official report of the meeting.

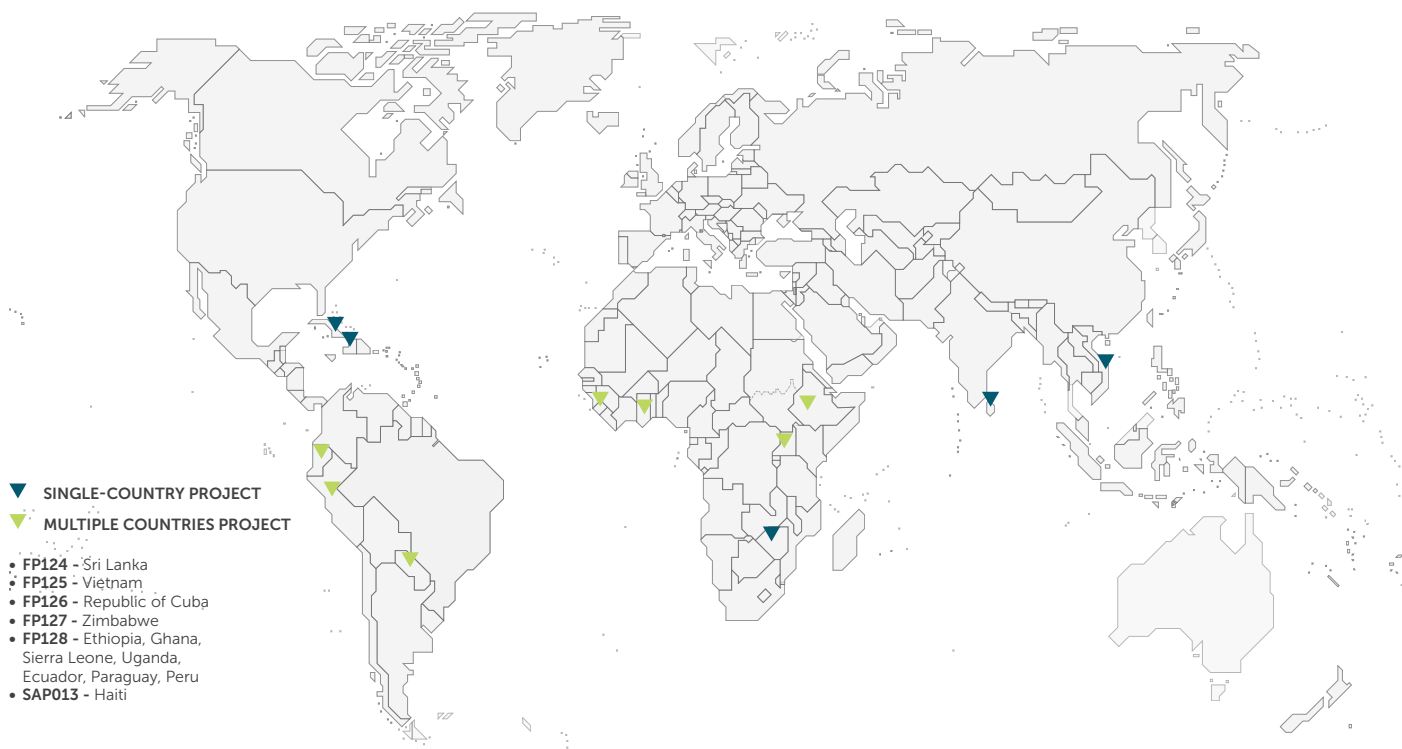
THE GCF BOARD APPROVED SIX NEW PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES INCLUDING ITS FIRST PROJECTS IN CUBA AND SIERRA LEONE

At B.25, the GCF Board approved **six new projects and programmes**, which together are projected by their submitting accredited entities to abate over **22.9 million tonnes of CO₂eq (MtCO₂eq)** during their lifetimes, and to reach **4.8 million total beneficiaries**. Among the funding proposals approved were the first GCF projects in Cuba and Sierra Leone. In all, the total amount of GCF funding approved at B.25 was **USD 169.7 million**, with a total value of **USD 618.7 million** in climate mitigation and adaptation action in **12 developing countries** when taking co-financing into account. Including these new approvals, the GCF portfolio has increased to **129 projects and programmes** allocating **USD 5.6 billion** of GCF resources across **108 developing countries**.

UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2020-2023

One of the major topics of discussion during B.25 was an update to GCF's initial Strategic Plan to cover the years 2020-2023, which the Board decided to update as part of each replenishment process. Following initial conversations at B.24, the Board at B.25 advanced work on development of an updated strategic plan, with a view to concluding work at its next meeting.

MAP OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES APPROVED AT B.25



ASSESSING AND ADVANCING THE FUND'S OPERATIONS

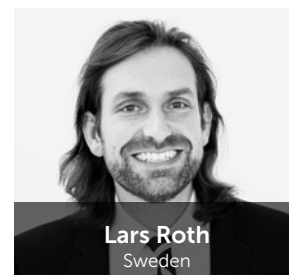
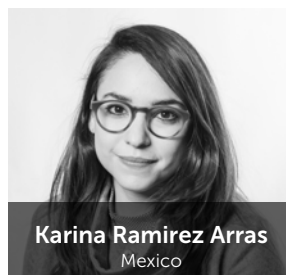
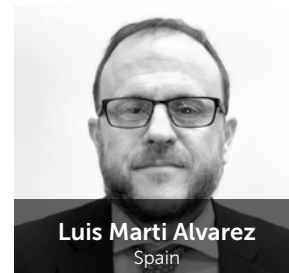
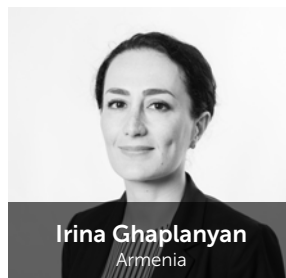
During B.25, the Board took significant steps in assessing and advancing its operations. For example, the Board took a decision to expand its independent Technical Advisory Panel from six members to ten members in order to enable GCF to meet the growing demand for project reviews during its first replenishment period. The Board also discussed reviews of the Fund's REDD plus Results Based Payment Pilot and the Secretariat's review of the Simplified Approval Process pilot scheme (SAP), and it agreed to consider action on the latter at its 26th meeting. Finally, during B.25, the Board agreed to consider, through a decision without a Board meeting, the applications of two direct access, national entities to become accredited to develop and implement projects and programmes with the Fund, and the request of one already accredited direct access, national entity to increase the scope of work it could do with the Fund.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING OF GCF IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During executive sessions at B.25, the Board discussed GCF's business contingency plans under the extraordinary circumstances arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic and decided, among other things, to take note of the special flexible remote working arrangements that had been put in place by the Executive Director to protect the health and welfare of GCF staff, consultants and interns; to ban all events organized by GCF for a period of 30 calendar days starting on 16 March 2020; to authorize the Executive Director to explore options in the event that alternative temporary working arrangements for a core group of Secretariat staff need to be put in place in partner organizations under specified conditions if it is determined necessary to mitigate the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on the achievement of the Secretariat's Key Performance Indicators; and to approve a contingency budget to cover costs relating to the activation of alternative working arrangements, as needed.



GCF BOARD MEMBERS





Summary of main substantive decisions taken by the Board at its 25th Meeting

INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL

At its 9th meeting in 2015, the Board agreed to form an independent Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) in order to provide an independent technical assessment of, and advice on, funding proposals. At B.25, the Board considered a consultant's report findings and committee recommendations on the structure and operations of the independent TAP. After due consideration, the Board decided at B.25 to increase the size of the independent TAP from its current six

members to ten members. This will allow the Panel to more effectively meet the higher demand of assessing an increased number of projects for GCF that is expected following the recent replenishment of the Fund. Toward that end, it approved funding to support the increased size of the independent TAP, requested the Secretariat to launch an immediate call for experts, and requested the Board's Investment Committee to nominate additional experts as independent TAP members by B.26, with due consideration given to the geographic and specialty coverage. The decision also requested the Secretariat to recruit an administrative support consultant to report to and work directly with the Chair of the independent TAP, and it approved funding for this purpose and for improving and supporting the operationalization of a roster of experts to assist the independent TAP's work. Finally, it requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Investment Committee and the independent TAP, to propose by B.26, updates to the operational modalities of the Panel to accommodate the increased independent TAP workload.

UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2023

At its 12th Meeting in 2016, the Board agreed an Initial Strategic Plan to guide the Fund toward the achievement of the overarching objectives outlined in GCF's Governing Instrument. At the time of its adoption, the Board decided to review the initial Strategic Plan as part of each replenishment process. Toward that end, during B.25, the Board considered, and made further progress on updating the plan that outlines GCF's long-term strategic vision and lays out its strategic objectives, and the operational and institutional priorities for 2020-2023. Dedicated Board discussions at B.25 focused on a set of six outstanding issues and based on progress made at B.25, the Board will continue consultations and work to conclude the updated strategic plan at its next meeting.

ACCREDITATION

During B.25, the Board decided to consider approving, without a Board meeting, the application of two new national Direct Access Entities and an upgrade in the scope of accreditation of an already accredited national Direct Access Entity. The Board also made a technical correction to clarify that the accredited entity for Applicant APL090 is the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat (NCDDS) to the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD). Finally, as the Board did not take action to extend its decision on the prioritization of certain accreditation applications, the process for taking action on accreditation applications will default to a first-come, first-complete approach.

A REVIEW OF THE SIMPLIFIED APPROVAL PROCESS PILOT SCHEME (SAP)

At its 18th meeting in 2017, the GCF Board approved the SAP with an objective of applying best practices in order to reduce the time and effort needed in the preparation, review, approval and disbursement procedures for proposals of certain activities, in particular small-scale activities. Decision B.18/06 requested the Secretariat to review the SAP, and to report back to the Board with recommendations to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the process, as well as to consider expanding the type of eligible activities and increasing the SAP funding. The review of the SAP and its recommendations were presented at B.25. Following the presentation, the Board requested the Secretariat to further develop the SAP policy for consideration by the Board at its 26th meeting.

GUIDANCE FROM THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP)/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BOARD'S 2020 WORK PLAN

In accordance with the Governing Instrument, the Board is to consider annual guidance from the COP to the UNFCCC, to take appropriate action, and to report back to the COP through its annual report to the COP. At its 25th meeting, the Board reviewed and agreed the proposal of the Co-Chairs on the initial steps that the Board will take during the year to respond to the guidance of the COP.

REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES, PANELS AND GROUPS

At its 20th meeting in 2018, the Board authorized a review of the effectiveness, including the continued necessity, of the committees, panels and groups established by the Board. At B.25, the Board took note of the consultant's report shared earlier with the Board at B.24, agreed with the Co-Chairs' proposal, and requested the Co-Chairs to consult with the

Board with a view to conclude its consideration of the review and to present a proposal on updated general guidelines for Committees and Panels by B.26.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING OF GCF IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During executive sessions at B.25, the Board held extensive discussions on GCF's business contingency plans and its Secretariat and independent units under the extraordinary circumstances arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognizing both its duty to act in the best interest of the Fund and its duty of care towards GCF staff, consultants and interns. In that regard, it decided, among other things, to take note of the special flexible remote working arrangements that had been put in place by the Executive Director to protect the health and welfare of GCF staff, consultants and interns; to ban all events organized by GCF for a period of 30 calendar days starting on 16 March 2020; and to approve a contingency budget to cover costs relating to the activation of alternative working arrangements, as needed. It also agreed to authorize the Executive Director of the GCF Secretariat to explore options for the temporary hosting of a core group of staff in partner organizations under specified conditions, and to activate those alternative working arrangements in the event they are necessary to mitigate the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on the achievement of the Secretariat's Key Performance Indicators. The Board also decided that the independent units are to take the same measures as those taken by the Secretariat, with any deviations requiring Board approval. In taking this decision, the Board reaffirmed that the Headquarters of the Fund would remain in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea, that the Executive Director would hold regular discussions with the Co-Chairs on any related measures implemented, and that implementation of measures falling outside of the authorities provided in the decision would need approval by the Board.



FP124 | Sri Lanka

STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF SUBSISTENCE FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL PLANTATION COMMUNITIES RESIDING IN THE VULNERABLE RIVER BASINS, WATERSHED AREAS AND DOWNSTREAM OF THE KNUCKLES MOUNTAIN RANGE CATCHMENT OF SRI LANKA

BENEFICIARIES



Individuals (approx.)

FINANCING

USD 39.8m USD 9.2m



● GCF financing
● Co-financing

SUMMARY

The project aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of smallholder subsistence farmers to address climate-induced irrigation and drinking water shortages by improving the resilience of farm- and land-management practices, and by climate proofing the underlying ecosystems in the Knuckles / Amban Ganga highlands and lowlands in Sri Lanka. The interventions are focused on promoting sustainable land use and profitability of farming and plantation management in upstream areas, as well as efficient use of irrigation water and climate-adapted agriculture downstream; and implementing sustainable financing to enable investment in catchment protection and sustainable land use through value-chain upgrading and the establishment of payment for ecosystem services schemes, respectively. The project will also provide institutional support to develop appropriate governance mechanisms, information systems and rural advisory services capable of delivering appropriate land use options across the project area. By focusing on linking downstream utility of water with upstream catchment protection to sustain water storage capacity, the project complements other projects and interventions in the region, including FP016 "Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers in the Dry Zone to climate variability and extreme events through an integrated approach to water management".

GCF RESULT AREAS



Health, food
and water
security



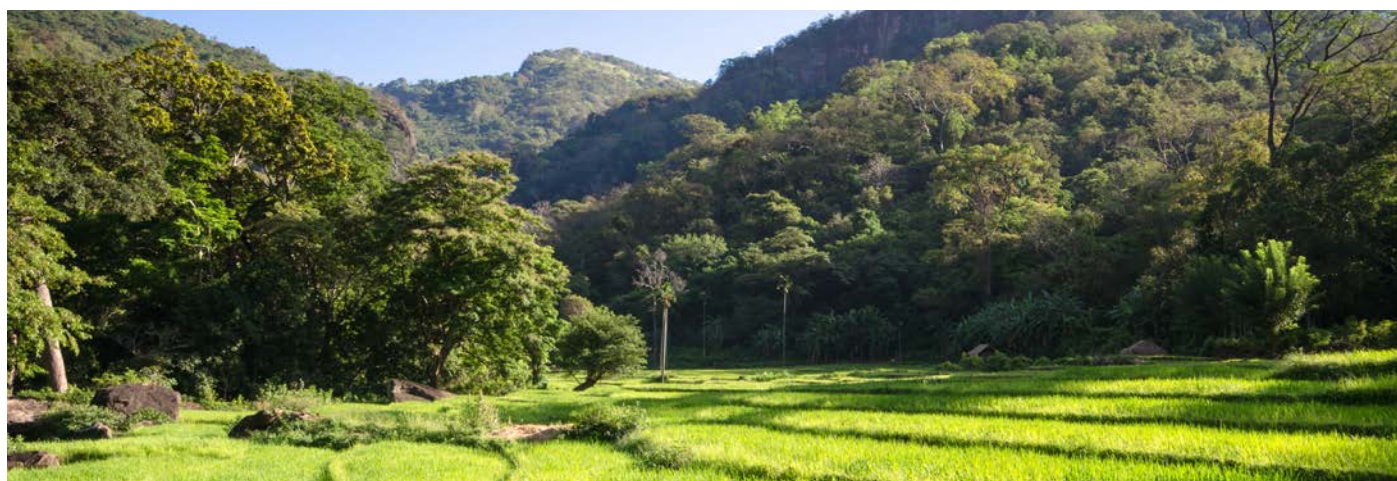
Livelihoods
of people and
communities



Ecosystems
and ecosystem
services

Focus ADAPTATION

Accredited Entity:



FP125 | Vietnam

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE-INDUCED WATER INSECURITY IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND SOUTH-CENTRAL COAST REGIONS OF VIETNAM

BENEFICIARIES



Individuals (approx.)

FINANCING

USD 30.2m USD 126.1m



○ GCF financing
○ Co-financing

GCF RESULT AREAS



Livelihoods
of people and
communities



Health, food
and water
security

Focus ADAPTATION

Accredited Entity:



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

SUMMARY

This project aims to empower vulnerable smallholders in five provinces and sixty communes of the Central Highlands and South-Central Coast regions of Vietnam – particularly women and ethnic minority farmers - to manage increasing climate risks to agricultural production. To achieve its objective, the project will enable vulnerable smallholder farmers to adapt to climate-driven rainfall variability and drought through improved access to water and strengthening their capacities to apply climate and market information, technologies, and practices for climate-resilient water and agricultural management. In particular, it will establish 185 kilometer of large-scale irrigation infrastructure and 4,765 last-mile connection systems for poor smallholder farmers; enhance water storage for rainfed farmers; invest in inputs and capacities to scale up climate-resilient cropping systems and practices through Farmer Field Schools and a voucher system reaching 8,600 smallscale farmers; and provide technical assistance for enhancing access to markets and credit for sustained climate- resilient agricultural investments by smallholders and value chain actors through Climate Innovation Platforms.



FP126 | Republic of Cuba



INCREASED CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE REHABILITATION OF PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES IN SELECTED LOCALITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA (IRES)

MITIGATION IMPACT



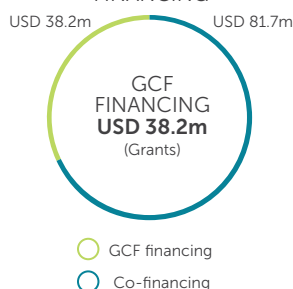
Anticipated Million Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent avoided over the programme lifetime

BENEFICIARIES



Individuals (approx.)

FINANCING



GCF RESULT AREAS



Livelihoods
of people and
communities



Ecosystems
and ecosystem
services



Forests and
land use

Focus CROSS-CUTTING

Accredited Entity:



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

SUMMARY

The project is designed to increase the climate resilience of agricultural production and ensure food security in seven municipalities vulnerable to climate change. Specifically, the project will rehabilitate approximately 15,544 ha of farmland and 20,189 ha of rangeland production landscapes through tested and approved agroforestry, silvopastoral, reforestation and assisted natural regeneration modules and techniques. The project will also provide technical assistance and capacity-building to ensure that farmers acquire the know-how to replace current production practices with new resilience-enhancing production and rehabilitation practices. Finally, it will target policy and planning frameworks aiming to enable effective institutional coordination and support to farmers to build the productivity and sustainability of their agroecosystems and the resilience of their shared production landscapes. This latter component will include the creation of a national Landscape Resilience Fund to finance farmers' adaptation measures related to implementation of agroforestry, silvopastoral and forestry systems in support of landscape resilience through ecosystem service enhancement. The project will target members of agricultural cooperatives and individual farmers with the purchase of essential machinery, equipment and inputs (e.g. seedlings), as well as provide assistance to farmers in business planning, and access to credit and markets.



FP127 | Zimbabwe

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTHERN ZIMBABWE

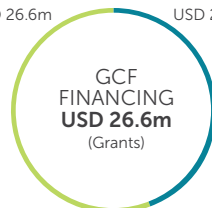
BENEFICIARIES



Individuals (approx.)

FINANCING

USD 26.6m USD 21.2m



○ GCF financing

○ Co-financing

GCF RESULT AREAS



Livelihoods
of people and
communities



Health, food
and water
security

Focus ADAPTATION

Accredited Entity:



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

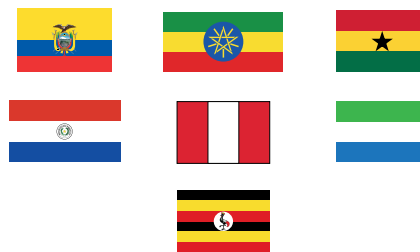
SUMMARY

This project addresses observed and projected climate impacts and builds the resilience of smallholder farmers (especially women and youth) in three semi-arid agroecological regions and 25 districts of southern Zimbabwe. These objectives will be accomplished by: increasing access to water for agriculture through climate-resilient irrigation systems and water resource management; scaling up climate-resilient agricultural production and diversification through increased access to climate-resilient inputs, practices and markets; and, improving access to weather, climate and hydrological information for climate-resilient agriculture. Key project activities include: climate-proofing and revitalizing of existing irrigation infrastructure and equipment in 21 irrigation schemes covering 1,786 hectares; Rainwater harvesting, soil moisture management techniques and water efficiency practices on 75,900 hectares; Field-based training of 6,900 lead farmers in 251 Farmer Field Schools; Procurement of agricultural inputs and technologies to implement Climate Resilient Agriculture packages on 6,900 farmer plots; and installation of automatic weather, rainfall and water level/gauging stations.

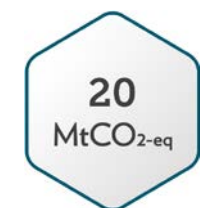


FP128 | Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Paraguay, Peru, Sierra Leone, Uganda

ARBARO FUND – SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FUND



MITIGATION IMPACT



Anticipated Million Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent avoided over the programme lifetime

FINANCING

USD 25m USD 175m



GCF financing
 Co-financing

GCF RESULT AREAS



Forests and land use

Focus MITIGATION

Accredited Entity:



SUMMARY

The Programme will provide effective climate change mitigation outcomes through investments in sustainable plantation forestry projects in emerging forestry markets of Latin America and Sub Saharan Africa, while also bringing adaptation co-benefits. This investment approach provides developing countries and their rural communities with a solution to increase carbon sinks by producing wood in a sustainable manner and conserving natural forests, while also contributing to reduction of illegal logging. The Fund targets creating 75 000 hectares of new forest areas which will sequester up to 20mtco2eq during the lifetime of the programme. Besides direct mitigation achieved in forest plantations, the Programme operations will lead to additional greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits through the protection of natural forests in project areas, as well as through the provision of alternative wood resources. It will also support efforts to combat deforestation and degradation of natural forests in project regions.



SAP013 | Haiti

SCALING SMART, SOLAR, ENERGY ACCESS MICROGRIDS IN HAITI

BENEFICIARIES



Individuals (approx.)

MITIGATION IMPACT



Anticipated Million Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent avoided over the programme lifetime

FINANCING



GCF RESULT AREAS



Energy
generation
and access



Livelihoods
of people and
communities

SUMMARY


Haiti consistently ranks among the poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries in the world; it is also one of the least electrified countries in the Western Hemisphere. This first GCF project in Haiti aims to highlight how solar energy, combined with storage, smart controls, and customer participation—from design to consumption—can deliver high-quality energy services quickly and affordably. Specifically, the project will develop 22 community-scale solar + battery storage micro-grids in southern Haiti, providing affordable and reliable 24/7 access to modern energy services in communities where currently no grid power exists. The project will include technical assistance to build capacity and develop an enabling environment for rural microgrid development and “feminist electrification” advocacy at the national and international levels.

Focus
CROSS-CUTTING

Accredited Entity:



NOTES



This document provides a summary of the outcomes of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund (the 'GCF') and does not represent the official report of the meeting. Accordingly, it is provided without warranty of any kind, including completeness, fitness for a particular purpose and/or non-infringement. For the full details of the outcomes of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board of the GCF, please refer to the related compendium of decisions and the official report of the meeting. The boundaries, colours, denominations, and other information shown on any map, and the use of any flags, in this document do not imply any judgement on the part of the GCF concerning the legal status of any territory or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.